Value of Gems and Jewellery Exported

727. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total value of gems and jewellery exported from India during the last three years, till date, year-wise;

(b) whether Government have evolved any special scheme for acceleration in this sector;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether India is the largest importer of rough diamonds; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The total value of gems and jewellery exported from India during the last three years is as follows :

	Value in US $ Mn
1990-91	2987.40
1991-92	2929.89
1992-93 (Provisional)	3241.22

(Source : GJEPC)

(b) and (c) Exporters of gems and jewellery are provided access to import of duty free raw materials, and are assisted for participation in fairs and exhibitions and for market survey of foreign markets. Training facilities are also provided through Indian Diamond Institute and G&JEPC.

(d) and (e) Volume-wise India is the largest importer of rough diamonds. Imports for the last 3 years were as follows :

Year	Million Carats	US $ Mn.
1990-91	37.1	1975.19
1991-92	54.6	1897.42
1992-93 (Prov.)	73.2	2185.75

(Source : G&JEPC)

Reaction of Indian Drug Manufacturers a Association on Dunkel Proposals

728. DR. SANJAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Drug Manufacturer's Association has recently accused his Ministry of spreading misinformation regarding the impact of the proposals on patent contained in the Dunkel draft as per the news item entitled "IDMA accuses Ministry of misinformation of campaign" which appeared in the Indian Express (Business Express) dated the 15th April, 1993;

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Government has not been spreading any misinformation on the subject.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Trade Agreement with Czech Republic

729. DR. SANJAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India and the Czech Republic have recently signed a trade agreement; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India and the Government of the Czech Republic signed an Agreement on Trade and Economic cooperation at New Delhi on March 15, 1993.

(b) The following are the more salient details of the Agreement :

(i) promotion of bilateral trade and economic cooperation on a long term and stable basis;

(ii) mutual Most-Favoured-Nation treatment;

(iii) all payments of a commercial and non-commercial nature in freely convertible currencies;

(iv) promotion of close cooperation such as through joint ventures, trade fairs and exchange of information;

(v) setting up of a Joint Committee which would examine the possibilities of increasing and diversifying mutual trade and economic relations;

(vi) counter trade and other internationally recognised forms of business cooperation; and

(vii) arrangements for liquidation of the rupee balances to the credit of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, through import of goods and services from India.

The Agreement is valid in the first instance for a period of five years with the provision of automatic successive extensions.

Business Turnover of M/s. Hindustan Lever

730. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total turnover of M/s. Hindustan Lever Bros., Bombay in Business with foreign countries during the last three years alongwith the names of those countries and amount in detail; and

(b) whether any country has expressed its dissatisfatction over any of such deals and complained to Government and if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Ministry of Commerce does not maintain company-wise figures of export. However, as per the date provided by the country itself, the export turnover of M/s. Hindustan Lever Ltd. alongwith the regions where exports have been made, during the last 3 years, is indicated below :

(Rs. in crores)

	1990	1991	1992
U.S.S.R./East Europe	48.25	37.57	3.61
West Europe	34.54	62.42	88.97